

REMARKS

Claims 4-13 and 16-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, 14-15 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Claims 4, 6-9, 13 and 16-18 were objected to.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 6-9, 13 and 16-18 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have elected to rewrite claims 4, 6, 16 and 17 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants believe that claims 5 and 8-13 are allowable in their present form by virtue of their dependency from claim 4 and claim 7 is allowable in its present form by virtue of its dependency from claim 6.

Amendment To The Drawings

Applicant proposes to correct a minor error in the equipment labels for FIG. 1. As clearly mentioned on page 3, line 9 of the specification, the database is properly labeled with reference sign 110.

Applicant has attached hereto a replacement drawing sheet for FIG. 1 correcting the aforementioned minor error.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, 14-15 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Number 2002/0176559 issued to Adamek dated on November 28, 2002.

Claims 1-3 and 14-15 have been canceled. However, applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 1-3 and 14-15 in a continuation application pending further review of the cited prior art.

Claim 5, previously dependent from now canceled claim 1, has been amended to depend from claim 4 which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject

matter. Claim 10 depends from claim 5, which depends from allowable claim 4. Claims 11-12 depend from claim 10, which depends from claim 5, which depends from allowable claim 4. Claim 19, previously dependent from now canceled claim 14, has been amended to depend from claim 17 which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Claim 20 has been amended with limitations from allowable claim 17. Thus, applicants believe that claims 5, 10-12 and 19-20 are allowable.

New Claims

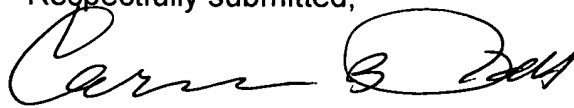
New claims 21-31 have been added. Claim 21, which depends from allowable claim 4, includes limitations substantially similar to the limitations in the now canceled claim 3. Claims 22-29 provide limitations directed to a system according to the present invention. Claims 29-31 provide limitations directed to a method according to the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 11, 2007

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